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Mexico

Food and Agricultural Import Regulations and Standards

Mexico Announces Final Standard on Ham Denomination (NOM-158-SCFI-2003)

2003

Approved by:

David Williams

U.S. Embassy Mexico City

Prepared by:

Sal Trejo

Report Highlights:

On August 14, 2003, the Secretariat of Economy (SE) published in the *Diario Oficial* (Mexico's "Federal Register") the final standard for ham denomination. Based on a preliminary analysis, it appears that U.S. exports to Mexico will not be impeded by this rule.

Includes PSD Changes: No
Includes Trade Matrix: No
Unscheduled Report
Mexico [MX1]
[MX]

Introduction: This report summarizes an official standard ("Norma Oficial") published in Mexico's "*Diario Oficial*" (Federal Register) on August 14, 2003.

Disclaimer: This summary is based on a *cursory* review of the subject announcement and therefore should not, under any circumstances, be viewed as a definitive reading of the regulation in question, or of its implications for U.S. agricultural export trade interests. In the event of a discrepancy or discrepancies between this summary and the complete regulation or announcement as published in Spanish, the latter shall prevail.

FAS/Mexico's Executive Summary: On August 14, 2003, the Secretariat of Economy (SE) published in the *Diario Oficial* (Mexico's "Federal Register") the final standard for the denomination of ham. Based on a preliminary analysis, it appears that U.S. exports to Mexico will not be impeded by this rule. The objective of this official Mexican standard establishes the commercial classifications of the different types of ham that are sold in the Mexican territory. It also establishes physical-chemical, microbiological and organoleptic specifications that these products must have, and the test methods to demonstrate compliance and commercial information that their packaging must contain.

Title: Official Mexican Standard NOM-158-SCFI-2003, Ham denomination and commercial classification, physical-chemical, microbiological, organoleptic specifications, commercial information and test methods.

Type of Rule: Final

Products affected: Ham made from pork or turkey meat.

Important Dates

1. Publication Date: August 14, 2003

2. Effective Date: December 12, 2003

Additional information:

Commercial Denomination

Ham will be commercially denominated as per the following table.

TABLE I

Commercial Denomination	Definition
Ham	Elaborated exclusively with the meat from the hind leg of pigs (with bone-in or not)
Turkey Ham	Elaborated exclusively with the meat from the thighs of turkeys
Pork and Turkey Ham	Elaborated with a minimum of 55 percent of pork meat and the remainder with turkey meat.
Turkey and Pork Ham	Elaborated with a minimum of 55 percent of turkey meat and the remainder with pork meat.

Specifications

Technical specifications on Ham

TABLE II

Commercial Classification	% PLG* Minimum	% Fat Maximum	% Humidity Maximum	% Added Protein	% carragenin maximum	% Starch Maximum
Extrafine	18	6	75	0	1,5	0
Fine	16	6	76	2	1,5	0
Preferential	14	8	76	2	1,5	5
Commercial	12	10	76	2	1,5	10
Economical	10	10	76	2	1,5	10

*PLG – Fat-free protein

Microbiological Specifications

TABLE III

Microorganisms	Maximum Limit
Mesophyllic aerobics	100,000 CFU/g
<i>Escherichia coli</i>	Negative
Molds and yeast	<10CFU/g
<i>Staphylococcus aureus</i>	100 CFU/g
<i>Salmonella spp</i>	Negative in 25 g

Labeling, Packaging and Packing

The labels of the subject products must indicate the following:

- Denomination and commercial clasification in accordance to Tables 1 and 2 above.
- List of ingredients, including water.
- The legend: For retail sales, weigh in presence of consumer.
- Name, brand or symbol of manufacturer and/or importer.
- Address of the manufacturer and/or importer.
- Country of origin.
- Lot number.
- Expiration date.
- Nutritional information.
- For product with added protein, indicate origin and percentage of protein.
- The legend: Maintain in refrigeration at 2°C to 4°C.

Comment:

Mexico's pork industry has been pressing the government of Mexico to implement these changes for some time now. The changes are not expected to have any significant impact on trade. Mexican consumers are expected to continue to choose hams on the basis of price and quality, which should lead to continued demand for cheaper hams that use turkey meat.

For More Information:

AgMexico@usda.gov

Fax: 011-52-55-5080-2776

Internet Connections

FAS Mexico Web Site: We are available at <http://www.fas-la.com/mexico> or visit our headquarter home page at <http://www.fas.usda.gov> for a complete selection of FAS' worldwide agricultural reporting.

Useful Mexican Web Sites: Mexico's equivalent of the Department of Agriculture (SAGARPA) can be found at www.sagarpa.gob.mx and Mexico's equivalent of the Department

of Commerce (SE) can be found at www.se.gob.mx These web sites are mentioned for the readers' convenience but USDA does NOT in any way endorse, guarantee the accuracy of, or necessarily concur with the information contained on the mentioned sites.